



LEROY D. BACA, SHERIFF

County of Los Angeles  
Sheriff's Department Headquarters  
4700 Ramona Boulevard  
Monterey Park, California 91754-2169



October 7, 2011

The Honorable Michael D. Antonovich  
Mayor, County of Los Angeles  
869 Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration  
500 West Temple Street  
Los Angeles, California 90012

Dear Mayor Antonovich:

On August 8, 2011, deputies working at Men's Central Jail found a cellular telephone in an inmate's property. A wide-ranging probe was initiated by the Department which led to an allegation that Deputy Gilbert Michel had brought several items of contraband into the jail. Deputy Michel was subsequently contacted and interviewed where he admitted to bringing the inmate the telephone, as well as cigarettes and a lighter. He denied bringing any other contraband into the jail. Deputy Michel also made statements which implicated him, along with several other jail employees, as having participated in four prior unreported incidents of improper uses of force.

Upon learning about these serious incidents, as well as recognizing the growing number of allegations, the Department formed a task force consisting of 35 members. The members include seasoned investigators and use of force subject matter experts who will review and objectively scrutinize all of the incidents to ensure they fall within the law and Department policy (Attachment I). These types of investigations are not only complex, but are inherently difficult due to the inmates' belief that they will suffer repercussions from other inmates if they cooperate with law enforcement. To overcome these issues, we are taking the necessary steps to ensure their safety and well-being.

On September 28, 2011, the Department received 78 sworn declarations provided by the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) which contained a myriad of allegations of misconduct by Sheriff's Department personnel (Attachment II). The Sheriff's Department is currently reviewing each of these declarations and thoroughly investigating each allegation of employee misconduct. Approximately 65 of these allegations are criminal in nature and will be prioritized and investigated based on their

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severity. Thirteen of the declarations alleged administrative misconduct which will be investigated accordingly.

Although some allegations have been previously investigated, each will be further reviewed to determine if any additional investigation is needed. Two such cases were already investigated and found to be unprovable (Attachment III). The Department takes these matters very seriously and will ensure that each and every allegation of misconduct has been, or will be, thoroughly investigated in an objective and timely fashion.

It is, moreover, my intent to provide the United States Attorney's Office the completed investigations which could be further investigated by the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

Attached are documents relevant to the corrective or improvement measures taken with the participation of the ACLU regarding policy (Attachment IV). Additionally, our corrective strategy centers on the custody culture of deputy/inmate relationships improving by conducting continuous town hall meetings in all facilities wherein management and staff (deputies) listen directly to inmates' concerns so immediate corrective or service needs can be met where possible. The inmate town hall meetings will occur once or more per week in each group housing area to ensure deputies are always serving the diverse needs of all inmates.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Leroy D. Baca".

LEROY D. BACA  
SHERIFF